

Maggie Lee Hayes -

List

MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

PILGRIM'S REST ASSOCIATION

OF

OLD SCHOOL UNITED BAPTISTS PRIMITIVE ORDER

HELD WITH

REHOBOTH CHURCH, GREENE COUNTY, ALA.,

On the 29th and 30th September, 1865.

CARROLLTON:

"WEST ALABAMIAN" OFFICE PRINT.

1865.

MINUTES

OF THE

PILGRIM'S REST ASSOCIATION.

THE members of Pilgrim's Rest Association met at Rehoboth Church, Greene County, Ala., on Friday, 29th September, 1865.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder A. J. Coleman, Romans 8 : 16, 17, 18. After a short intermission, the Delegates assembled at the stand. Prayer by Eld. C. W. Scoggin. The Association then proceeded to business.

1. Called for letters from the different Churches, and enrolled the names of the Delegates, as the table shows.

2. On motion, appointed Bro. R. S. Meeks to read letters from the different Churches. The same were read.

3. On motion, held an election, by ballot, for Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Eld. C. W. Scoggin was chosen Moderator, and O. S. Harris, Clerk.

4. On motion, the Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum were read.

5. Opened a door for the reception of New Churches.

6. Called for corresponding letters from sister Associations. Eld. A. J. Coleman was received from Buttahatchie—no Minutes. Eld. John Oden, with letter, was received from Tombigby.

7. Appointed the following Committee to arrange preaching on Saturday, viz : J. P. Murphy, from Rehoboth; G. W. Wilder, from Bethany ; P. W. Harris, from Five-Mile ; R. S. Meeks, from Providence ; N. Creal, from Macedonia. The Committee reported as follows : Eld. J. Oden to preach in the forenoon, and C. W. Scoggin in the afternoon. Committee discharged.

8. On motion, appointed a Committee of Finance, viz : G. W. Wilder and T. Hicks.

9. On motion, appointed a Committee of Arrangements, as follows: P. W. Harris, D. Daniel, D. Barnes, with the Moderator and Clerk.

10. Appointed brethren to write Letters of Correspondence to sis-

ter Associations, viz : to Buttahatchie, T. Hicks ; to Tombigby, R. S. Meeks ; Zion Rest, J. P. Murphy.

11. On motion, the Association adjourned until half past nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by the Moderator.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 1-2 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

12. Called for Corresponding Letters. Letters handed in, read and received, and bearers appointed, viz : to Buttahatchie, N. Creal, J. V. Creal ; to Zion Rest, J. Hill, D. Daniel, G. W. Wilder, T. Hicks, P. W. Harris ; to Tombigby, J. T. Allen, R. S. Meeks.

13. Called for a Circular Letter. The same handed in, read and received, and ordered to be attached to these Minutes.

14. Called on Committee of Arrangements. Report : "We take a Minute for our guide bearing date of 1863. Committee discharged.

15. Called on Committee of Finance. Report : Received from the different Churches \$28.50. Committee discharged.

16. On motion, appointed next annual meeting of this Association with Bethany Church, Pickens County, Alabama, 5 miles East of Vienna, to commence Friday preceding the 1st Sunday in October, 1866—Eld. C. W. Scoggin to preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. T. West, alternate ; R. S. Meeks to write the Circular Letter.

17. On motion, that we have 150 Minutes printed, reserving 25 for correspondence. Clerk to superintend the printing.

18. Appointed union meetings as follows : First District, with Bethany Church, Pickens County, Ala., commencing Friday before the Second Sabbath in July, 1866—Elder A. J. Coleman to preach the Introductory Sermon. The Second District with Five-Mile Church, Greene County, Ala., commencing Friday before the Fourth Sabbath in July, 1866—Elder J. J. Halbert to preach the Introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, T. J. Norris his alternate.

19. On motion, agreed that we as a body strike out the 19th Article in our Minutes bearing date 1863, pertaining to the estate of Zealous Taylor, deceased.

20. Opened a door for promiscuous business.

21. Called for the reading of the Minutes. Read and approved.

O. S. HARRIS, Clerk. C. W. SCOGGINS, Moderator.

SUNDAY. A. M.

In the forenoon, brethren Oden and Halbert addressed an unusually large and attentive congregation. During intermission an altercation took place between a white gentleman and a negro, which confused the congregation so much that it was impossible to proceed with the afternoon service. Elder Coleman, however, commenced his discourse, when an excitement took place with the negroes, upon which the white people become excited, and general confusion and disorder took place. But He who brings light from the chambers of darkness, and order out of confusion, is able to bless all to the good of his people and the glory of his name. O. S. HARRIS, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER;

WRITTEN BY JESSE HILL.

According to previous appointment, the time has arrived when, in the usual manner, you expect to be presented with a circular letter.—As the duty of writing circular letters has heretofore been the business of the Ministry, and I not being one of that class, you will not expect me to regard any particular portion of Scripture as a text. As everything that occurs visibly in nature or grace is the effect of some previous cause--then if this be true, Adam's transgression is the cause of sin, and sin is the cause of death. Then the whole human family, in the sight of God, is dead in trespasses and in sins, and entirely incapable of re-instating themselves into the favor of God, by anything that they can do. But God, who is rich in mercy, and loved us even when we were dead, and in this deplorable situation, caused that light to shine out of darkness, to shine into our hearts, and quicken the dead faculties of our souls, and enable us to see, feel and hear. This being the case, the evidence is sufficiently strong to produce faith, then repentance; then the creature is enabled to see how it is that he can be justified in the sight of God through the merits of Christ's blood that was shed on the Roman cross for his people! Time, with God, being one "eternal now," Jesus Christ, in the covenant of salvation, stood as a lamb slain from the foundation of the world. So the Old Testament saints could look forward with fond anticipation, by an eye of faith, according to the predictions of the prophets, to the coming of the promised sacrifice. God, looking through time as one day, saw the situation that man would place himself in, by reason of sin and transgression. He entered into a covenant contract with the Son, in Eternity, that he would come in due time and satisfy the demands of the law, then violated by his bride. And he, according to the Scriptures, did come at the appointed time, predicted by the Prophets and Apostles. Tabernacling thirty-three years, preaching his everlasting Gospel, calling and qualifying his Apostles, and teaching them how to continue his work

after his ascension. For he told his Disciples, "If I go not away, the Comforter will not come; but if I go away I will send him, and he shall take of mine and show it you." It is by a principle of love begotten in the heart of the sinner by the Comforter that draws him to Christ, "for no man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him."—*John 6 chap. 44 v.* We see, then, that we love him because he first loved us, &c.

We see, then, that love was the moving cause of his coming into the world to suffer the ignominious death of the cross for his people. For, he said, loving his own he loved them unto the end. He well knew what he was dying for and what the price was, and what the exact amount was that he secured by that price; (for he saw) you are not your own, ye are bought with a price, not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, as a lamb slain from the foundation of the world. So his people were virtually in him from all eternity, "according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself," &c. *Ephesians 1 c., 4, 5 v.* Then well might he invite them to come who were weary and heavy laden; for when a sinner is pierced to the heart, the first enquiry is, "Lord what shall I do to find rest?" Why is it not the case with all the world? Because he quickeneth whom he will, and them he will not he hardeneth. There is a doctrine afloat in the world that this Comforter that Christ said he would send can be refused and warded off. According to the Apostle Paul, this doctrine is false. He said, if any man preach another doctrine than that he preached, let him be accursed. This same Apostle said, you should not throw the children's bread to dogs. But put everything in its proper place, then everything will go on in harmony. But when Satan puts his finger in the matter, schisms, divisions and discord are sure to follow, for there are two distinct families, and they are not to be heirs of the same inheritance. Then, brethren, if we are the heirs of the free woman, let us love one another with a fervent heart and pray with and for one another, and pray God to help us discharge our duty to Him and to each other, and to let our light so shine that others, seeing our good works, may be constrained to glorify our father which is in heaven. And now, brethren, may God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, is the prayer of your unworthy brother. Amen.

JESSE HILL.

Expense for printing Minutes, thirty dollars.

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